Trade Policy Review Body

TRADE POLICY REVIEW

REPORT BY

JORDAN

Pursuant to the Agreement Establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization), the policy statement by Jordan is attached.
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

1.1. The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan continued to adopt a trade policy based on economic openness despite the world economic crisis and regional challenges, it strongly believes that such policy fosters economic development, raises its economy's competitiveness and supports a better business environment. The economy of Jordan has reaped the benefits of the global economic integration, and materialized in achieving an average annual real GDP growth rate of 5% in the last decade.

1.2. Jordan’s economy is mainly dependent on exports, tourism, and overseas Jordanian employees’ remittances. Jordan is blessed with a big number of academic, skilled and professional people. Due to its solid macroeconomic fundamentals and financial performance, Jordan's banking sector continue to have a positive influence on the economy and keeps the credit facilities, assets, capital adequacy and liquidity ratio at healthy levels. The political stability allows Jordan to serve as a regional entry point for incoming and outgoing trade and business.

1.3. Since 2008, Jordan pursued its ambitious goals of macroeconomic stability, liberalize trade, enhance the performance of the private sector and reform government institutions. Thus, Jordan continues to score high on trade openness indicators ranking 38th overall and 5th in the MENA region as seen at the Heritage Foundations’ Index of Economic Freedom.

1.4. The comprehensive political, social and economic reform agenda continued to be implemented, despite the several adverse external shocks that hit the global economy at the end of 2008, which casted its light on the whole region, in addition to the instability in the Middle East and conflicts escalating in Syria and Iraq.

1.5. Jordan successfully made remarkable human development achievements, maintained political and economic stability and thus offering a great opportunity for foreign and domestic investment. Indeed the Human Development Index ranks Jordan as 77th worldwide while classifying the country in the group of countries with a high human development.

1.2 Jordan Vision 2025

1.6. To address the social and economic challenges facing Jordan as a result of the ongoing instability in the region, the Government has put forward a new approach to stimulate economic growth and social inclusiveness, the “Jordan 2025 - National Vision and Strategy”. This Economic Blueprint, formally launched in May 2015, reaffirms the Jordan’s determination to develop the national economy, lead the path in achieving sustainable growth and enhancing economic reforms. Based on 20 developmental priorities, it crafts a path for the future and determines the integrated economic and social framework that will govern the economic and social policies based on providing opportunities for all. Its main cornerstones are: promoting the rule of law and equal opportunities, increasing participatory policy making, achieving fiscal sustainability and the strengthening of institutions.

1.7. The Jordan 2025 vision is an outcome of major consultative and collaborative efforts among all stakeholders. Citizens, civil society organization, political parties and business associations were provided with the opportunity to contribute to the document. It reflects an honest and clear assessment of Jordan’s current situation, outlines a vision with specific goals to be achieved and provides a roadmap to achieve the targets. It also incorporated the previous efforts and initiatives under one umbrella; the National Agenda, the National Employment Strategy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and all previous sectoral strategies.

1.8. Many important structural reforms and programmatic improvements were identified, selected and prioritized based on seven pillars which includes: developing human resources, social development, financial policies, trade and industry, business and investment environment, infrastructure decentralisation and community development and legislation and justice.
2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Economic growth and environment

2.1. Prudent macroeconomic policies allowed Jordan to achieve respectable GDP growth averaging 3.74% over the past 6 years. Overall GDP grew from US$21.97 billion to US$35.83 billion at current market prices. However, the unprecedented regional volatility, continuing negative consequences of the global financial crisis greatly affected the Jordanian economy, in addition to the sharp increases in world oil prices during the period 2010-14 and the decrease of the gas flow from Egypt. The GDP has recorded a slowdown of economic growth rate between 2.3% and 2.8% in the period 2011 to 2013 at current prices; this registered growth rate is modest compared to that achieved during the period (2000-08), which amounted to an average of about 6.6% per annum. GDP per capita grew by 42.8% since the last review from US$3,798 in 2008 to US$5,375 in 2014. The unemployment rate decreased from 12.7% in 2008 to 11.9% in 2014.

2.2. Jordan has completed its national economic reform program requirements with the IMF which started three years ago, and implemented several macroeconomic policies that included undertaking financial and sectoral reforms that helped in improving Jordan's economy and contributed to stabilizing the economy during a series of severe external shocks. In a bid to finance its increasing expenses and budget deficit, the government adopted austerity measures in 2011 and 2012 respectively in terms of lifting fuel subsidies and freezing public recruitment. Nonetheless, the deficit has increased by 15.4% in the period 2008-13 and represented 8.2% of GDP in 2013 due to the high bill of imported energy (oil and gas). Continued efforts were taken to decrease the budget deficit, which is considered as a huge challenge to the government, by introducing good governance, tax reforms and lowering government spending, as well as energy and water sector reform policies. Thus, the budget deficit decreased in 2014 to reach 7.1% of GDP and public debt is expected to stabilise this year and is anticipated to start declining in 2016.

2.3. Monetary policy is characterized by the Jordan Dinar being pegged to the U.S. Dollar to maintain monetary confidence and to enhance the competitiveness of Jordanian exports. The Central Bank of Jordan adopted an expansionary monetary policy in 2014 and early 2015. It was able to maintain and strengthen international reserves to an adequate level in currency and gold; totalling US$17.5 billion in 2014, which in turn has lately allowed the Central Bank to reduce interest rates to stimulate growth. The prudent reaction against the financial crisis in the banking sector in Jordan, and the comprehensive Legal framework and the compliance with international standards, helped the country to curb the crisis internally.

2.4. The integration between the fiscal and monetary policies have had a direct effect on lowering inflation from a relatively high peak of 13.9% in 2008 to 2.9% in 2014, its lowest level in over a decade. In 2015, the decrease in the crude oil prices would further decline inflation and thus will stimulate economic activities and growth.

2.2 Trade and regional challenges

2.5. National exports have increased by 17% since 2008 to reach US$7.3 billion in 2014. On the other hand, the trade deficit has significantly increased from US$9.2 billion in 2008 to reach US$14.2 billion in 2014. This is due to the high increase in oil prices and food imports. In 2014, Jordan imported more than 2.1 million tons of wheat and barley to serve the rising domestic consumption demand, which is closely linked to the continuing influx of Syrian refugees. The divergence between imports and exports is expected to slightly narrow in 2015 as a result of the decrease in the crude oil prices.

2.6. The main exported commodities were; apparel, fertilizers, pharmaceutical products, edible vegetables, potash and phosphates, inorganic chemicals, plastics and plastic articles, followed by electrical and electronic equipment and machinery as well as live animals.

2.7. Jordan imports around 90% of its food, including animal feeds. Jordan imported goods for a total value of US$22.8 billion in 2014, the main imported commodities were crude oil and its by-products which constitutes 30% of total imports, machinery, vehicles, motorcycles, electrical appliances, iron and iron products, and plastic.
2.8. Jordan's trade with the Arab countries constitutes around 50% of its total external trade. On the import side, the EU is the first destination for imports, followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with US$4.5 billion of imports in 2014. China, USA, India, and the UAE follow with over US$1 billion imports. Main export destinations for Jordanian products are the USA (US$1.32 billion), Iraq (US$1.28 billion), Saudi Arabia (US$1.04 billion and India (US$650 million).

2.9. The instability in the region as a result of the unrest in the region had severe impacts on the trade performance of Jordan, and led to the loss of many of the traditional markets for Jordanian exports. In the first half of 2015, the statistical data shows that the total exports in value, decreased by 8.2% in comparison with the same period of 2014. Meanwhile, the trade deficit decreased by 18.6% compared with the same period of 2014 due to the decrease in the imports, as a result of the decrease of the value of the crude oil and its products imports.

2.10. The Jordanian-Syrian trade amounted to around 10% of Jordan's total trade with Arab countries. The partial followed by the 2015 complete closure of the border with Syria had a significant negative impact on the Jordanian economy by virtue of geographical location. Exports to Syria declined by 39.1% in the first half of 2015 compared with the same period of 2014.

2.11. Additionally aggravating the situation, Syria was the privileged gateway for Jordan's exports to other strategic markets such as Lebanon, Turkey and the EU. Because of the ongoing crisis in Syria, transportation costs drastically increased on Jordan's industry for both imports and exports due to longer alternative transportation modes and routes. In many cases, no more viable transportation alternatives exist beside sea- and airfreight.

2.12. Exports to Iraq declined by 32.1% in the first half of 2015 in comparison with the same period of 2014 due to the deteriorating security conditions in the country. The most recent development was the closure of the borders with Iraq in July 2015 leading to the option of more costly routes through Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Government also is studying the maritime option for Jordanian exports or transit goods through Aqaba Port to Iraq's Um Qasr Port. Jordanian exports are expected to be negatively affected by approximately US$100 million monthly.

2.3 Investment and investment policy

2.13. Foreign Direct Investment continued to flow into Jordan, growing from US$1.47 billion in 2011 to US$1.76 billion in 2014. The Central Bank of Jordan implemented several rate cuts aiming at fostering investment. Many lucrative sectors for investment are; healthcare services, tourism, banking, mining, information technology, clean technology and pharmaceuticals sectors.

2.14. Jordan enacted the revised Investment law in 2014. The new law articulates clear definitions of tax exemptions and investors' rights. It also introduces a one-stop shop investment window in an aim to simplify economic projects licensing procedures and stimulating the Development and Free zones.

2.15. The new law gives the Jordan Investment Commission (JIC) the power and authority required to centralize and expedite all investment related procedures. The JIC is able to tailor specific geographic areas in the Kingdom for companies interested in establishing and managing sector-specific special economic zones, thus contributing to regional economic development.

2.16. The law provides incentives for the following sectors: manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality, healthcare, entertainment cities, research centers, media production, convention centres and events, transport, distribution and/or extraction of water, gas and oil derivatives using pipelines, air transport, sea transport and railways.

2.17. The Public Private Partnership (PPP) Law was also recently enacted reflecting the continuous efforts to introduce the concept of competitive dialogue between the Public and the Private sectors. To ensure that investment environment is sustainable and thus increasing Jordan’s participation in the international market, the PPP law aims at attracting the private sector to partner with the government in implementing infrastructure and development projects and promoting development of the private sector in the country. It will also enhance the introduction of technology and innovation by private sector and will provide better public services through improved operational efficiency.
2.18. Jordan offers many attractive investment opportunities and present an ideal gateway to access major international markets. Several investment opportunities and incentives packages have been granted in the last few years in the special economic zones, which provide lucrative incentives for foreign investment, including income tax rates of only 5%, free repatriation of capital, profits and salaries.

3 SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Agriculture

3.1. Despite chronic shortage of water, agriculture is of great importance for Jordan, granting jobs for many farmers and workforce, and amounts to about 3% of the GDP Water is a big challenge for the agriculture sector and to the whole economy in general. Jordan depends on the scarce rainfalls, which aliment dams that provide a certain water security, and on the ground water for the remaining needs.

3.2. The Jordan valley is characterized by its unique climate. It is considered as the food basket for Jordan due to the year-round agricultural climate, fertile soils, higher winter rainfall and extensive summer irrigation. Vegetables, cut flowers, herbs are the main products in the Valley for the off season. Olive trees are grown in the highlands which receive the highest rainfall in Jordan.

3.3. Agricultural exports grew from US$849 million in 2008 reaching US$1,495 million in 2014. The main agricultural products exported to the region include tomatoes and cucumbers. Jordan is among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of producing and exporting tomatoes. It is also the 7th producer worldwide of excellent olive oil.

3.2 Natural resources, mining and energy

3.4. Jordan possesses important natural resources that contribute 2.3% of the GDP. Main exploited minerals are potashes and phosphates. Other available minerals are; copper, iron and non-metallic minerals as clay and its different derivatives, such as kaolin, pure limestone and silica. Gypsum and construction materials are produced by various quarries in various regions of the Kingdom. Quarries also produce building stone, travertine, marble and granite slabs. The Dead Sea is rich in many minerals and natural resources such as salts and mud, which are used in the production of medical and cosmetic products.

3.5. Jordan is also rich in oil shale and renewable energy resources that have not been exploited on a commercial scale yet. It has the 4th largest oil shale resources in the world with an estimated 30 billion barrels of oil in its oil shale deposits. Moreover, the government encourages the private sector investment in the development of the energy sector, as part of the energy master plan for the year 2020, that includes electricity, natural gas, oil shale, and renewable energy industries. In the same context, the government issued the "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Law" in 2010, which aims at laying the foundation and fostering investments in this vital sector.

3.6. Recognizing the far reaching needs of energy for carrying out an ambitious economic growth and sustainable development and to ensure energy security, Jordan successfully launched liquefied natural gas terminal in Aqaba Port in line with international standards.

3.3 Industrial sector

3.7. The industrial sector is a main pillar of the Jordanian economy contributing to almost a quarter of the GDP, it also employs more than 250 thousand direct jobs accounting for over 18% of the total labor force in Jordan in more than 17 thousand industrial establishments and accounting for over 65% of foreign direct investments in the last decade. The largest industrial sectors are pharmaceuticals, textiles and garments manufacturing, chemicals, cosmetics, fertilizers, and processed agro-food. The industrial sector exports amount to around 90% of the total exported goods.

3.8. The pharmaceutical industry is one of the fastest-growing among country's manufacturing industries, it is mainly producing generics, working under the country's strict IPR rules and providing a high share of domestic value added. It is also particularly export intensive, exporting
70-80% of its production, making Jordan the largest exporter of pharmaceuticals in the Arab World.

3.9. The processed agro-food sector is vital to the national food security and is directly integrated with other economic sectors especially agriculture sector which increases the added value. This sector has a vast spectrum of products including olive oil, processed meat, pasta, juices, spices, salt, chocolate, dairy products, sweets, cereals, biscuits and tobacco, and contributes to 10% of industrial products exports.

3.10. The textiles and garments sector is an export oriented sector and contributes more than US$1 billion a year in exports amounting to over 20% of total exports. This sector benefited most from the free trade agreements between Jordan and its trading partners.

3.11. The chemicals and cosmetics sector has a variety of products which are used in other industries and sectors (i.e. construction sector) both as a raw material and intermediate products. It is one of the leading exporting sectors, reaching major international markets, these products include paints, fertilizers, pesticides, and organic, non-organic chemicals, dead sea products and personal care products.

3.12. The furniture and wood products sector is a promising sector that has the biggest ratio of small and micro enterprises, which is capable to match up international designs and ideas to satisfy a wide range of tastes of customers especially in GCC courtiers.

3.13. The industrial sector capitalizes on a natural resources base (principally in the form of phosphate reserves and minerals extracted from the dead sea), as well as and the Kingdom's location at the crossroads of the Middle East and Europe, and the recent implementation of several free trade agreements, all factor into boosting exports to these new markets. Jordan also has a well-educated work force. The Kingdom's only port is on its southern Red Sea coastline. It provides a good shipping access for key global export markets.

3.14. The persistence of oil price fluctuations and the rising of world commodity prices, especially raw materials, have had consequential impact on the production cost of Jordan's industry and depressingly affected Jordan's exports competitiveness. This also impacted the small and medium size enterprises that suffered from the fierce competition due to trade liberalization and due to the financial crisis.

3.15. These implications of persisting severe challenges, in addition to the instability of the region and the closure of the borders, led the government to submit a written request to WTO in 2014 to for a waiver of extending the phase-out period of the export subsidy program beyond the year 2015. The requested waiver is limited in scope, it aims at providing the SMEs in Jordan the opportunity to deal with the unprecedented difficult situation, and the regional political and economic challenges.

3.4 Services

3.16. The Jordanian economy is service-oriented in terms of value added and employment. The services sector contributes around 67% of GDP and employs two thirds of the labor force.

3.17. Transportation and travel are major contributors to the economy. Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) received over 7 million passengers during 2014, a 9% increase over 2013. Tourism is a vital resource of income for the economy. Jordan is considered as one of the top in MENA countries with the unspoiled natural locations. Despite the regional development, Jordan witnessed a slight decline in the number of foreign incomers by 4.5%. The tourism sector is still attracting huge investments, big projects are underway.

3.18. Given its relative political stability and its diverse range of tourism offerings, it is likely that the Kingdom will again become an established tourist destination in the Middle East, especially offering high quality and adequate medical services and treatment. Medical tourism generated more than US$1.41 billion in 2014. These revenues include patients' expenditure on medical procedures, accommodations, transportation and other expenses.
3.19. The medical and health care sector in Jordan is well-known, both regionally and internationally, for its quality and the modernization of hospitals and medical centres, and the availability of some of the most important specialists in the world in the treatment of various diseases. Jordan enjoys a competitive cost structure, which offers medical services companies a low-risk platform to serve the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) market, as well as providing them with significant research and laboratory capabilities.

3.20. The Government has continued revising policies to execute its commitment to the ICT sector. As a provider of talent and skilled professionals, Jordan is witnessing significant growth in ICT in its liberal market. The sector generates income representing approximately 14% of the country's GDP. Amman is considered as the 10th best place to start a technology company in the world. Moreover the country also enjoys on-the-ground presence of global companies.

3.21. The construction and engineering in Jordan is one of the most active sectors, and a catalyst for several other sectors. It grew considerably in 2013 and 2014 and accounts for 4.5% of GDP in 2014. Jordan is one of the world's top countries in terms of skilled engineering graduates, It has 120,000 engineers in Jordan and 40,000 working abroad.

4 FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

4.1 Jordan and WTO

4.1. Jordan joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 11 April 2000, becoming the 136th member of the organization. Jordan agreed to a broad range of obligations in areas such as tariff reductions, non-tariff barriers to trade, services liberalisation, agriculture, and transparency.

4.2. It conducted its first trade policy review in 2008. Since then, Jordan continued to maintain its commitments and actively participate in the Doha Development agenda negotiations. Jordan has low average tariffs, with single- or two-digit rates, *ad valorem*-only duties with some exceptions where specific duties apply, and nearly 100% tariff bindings. Jordan was granted staging and product-exclusion rights. Thus, Jordan obtained a ten-year transition period for implementing tariff reduction commitments which is fully achieved. On imports of tobacco and alcohol, Jordan opted to impose higher tariffs between 150% and 200%. Thus, tobacco and alcohol maintained high tariff peaks. As Jordan joined also the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA), those products enjoy zero tariffs upon importation in Jordan. Those commitments were already contained in the accession protocol and implemented upon accession.

4.3. The Customs Law and the related agency, Jordan Customs Department, are the main pivotal point concerned with goods trading, import and export. The Customs Department upgraded its customs facilities and automated some of the paper-based customs system. It also adopted many concepts and practices of trade facilitation for a speedier flow of goods across borders. For example, the department provides green-lane treatment to companies through expedited shipments free of or with *de-minimis* inspections upon arrival at ports of entry (Golden List program). Jordan's Customs leads in the Middle East in the single window implementation. Customs related laws, regulations, administrative rules, information on customs processes, conditions for importation, charges applicable under customs law, tariff rates, tariff classification opinions, and bilateral and regional trade agreements are all available in a transparent manner to operators. Furthermore, The Customs Department provides advance rulings based on requests from traders who seek clarification on specific matters, such as classification and applicable tariff rates.

4.4. Jordan also made extensive liberalization undertakings under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); these undertakings would open some sectors that were previously closed or were restricted with regard to foreign investment and participation. Jordan has undertaken horizontal commitments with respect to the cross-border movement of individuals and commercial presence covering all types of services. Jordan has made specific commitments in 11 major service sectors and 128 subsectors and activities in all four modes of supply.
### 4.2 Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

4.5. Jordan is a strong believer in the multilateral trading system and is committed to contribute towards the strengthening of a free and fair global trade in close cooperation with WTO members.

4.6. Since its accession to the World Trade Organization in the year 2000, Jordan has taken significant steps in fulfilling its commitments. During the DDA, Jordan joined the group of Recently-Acceded Member (RAM). In this context, Jordan supports the RAMs Group position referring to the exceptionally significant and extensive commitments made by the group members upon accession as compared to those made by members that joined the WTO during previous rounds of negotiations and reflecting the group's concerns on the current workflow of the negotiations within the DDA.

4.7. On a parallel track, Jordan falls under the small and vulnerable economies (SVEs) and as a Net Food Importer Developing Country calls for additional flexibilities within the agriculture negotiations to assure food security elements for SVEs. As previously stated, Jordan has to import approximately 90% of its needs in food including animal feeds.

4.8. Moreover, the successful implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreements is one of Jordan's priorities to ensure the harmonization of legislation and improve the efficiency of supply chain logistics as well as the development and technical adjustment requirements. On the other hand, Jordan already implemented several parts of the Bali Agreement. Steady increase in trade, greater export diversification, enhanced foreign investment and improved national competitiveness are a few of the many expected gains of this agreement.

4.9. Jordan looks forward to a balanced outcome in services negotiations under the four modes of supply and emphasizes the needs to harmonize effective disciplines on domestic regulations that allow better or free access to markets. Jordan looks forward to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round.

### 4.3 Regional and bilateral trade liberalisation

4.10. In line with the WTO commitments and in complementarity to the efforts in the WTO, Jordan is also engaged into strengthening its bilateral ties with several countries and economic blocs. Jordan has free trade agreements with GAFTA U.S., EU, Canada, Turkey, Singapore, EFTA states. It is also part of the Agadir Agreement between Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. Furthermore, Jordan is negotiating an FTA with Mexico.

4.11. On 1 March 2011, the Turkey - Jordan FTA came into force and thus initiated a gradual reduction of tariffs for Turkish products imported into Jordan, while Turkey grants immediate market access to Jordanian products. On 1 October 2012, the Agreement between Canada and Jordan came into effect, thus further expanding Jordan's access towards the North American continent. In this context, Jordan also embarked on negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with Mexico.

### 5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

5.1. Jordan is fully committed to further strengthen the economic and trade integration and to maintain positive attitude towards the multilateral trading system. Jordan is seeking technical support to achieve the full compliance with WTO agreements in the following areas:

- Strengthen technical capacity building in the following areas: government procurements, trade negotiation skills, customs valuation agreement, trade facilitation and customs clearance operations, SPS, TBT, effective and efficient utilization of trade remedies.
- Development and implementation of trade policies, in the areas of; competition policy, IPR issues and modernization of IPRs laws and regulations, e-procurement and warehouse management, modern price index system, translation of WTO agreements to Arabic, regional information exchange center, development of standardization, testing and quality infrastructures.
Most effective implementation of measures in accordance with trade facilitation agreement in the areas of: pre-arrival processing, automated infrastructure and automated single window in particular, risk management process, legal translation of customs legislation; regulation; procedures and publication of Jordan customs department website contents of the internet, advance rulings.

- Strengthen the start-up of SMEs; strengthening the systematic vocational training, enhancing SME's competitiveness for export, enhancing the use of renewable energy by industries.
- Improving public awareness and developing a wider culture in the areas of IPR, Trade Facilitation.
- International Expertise in: preparation and adoption of standards, creation of legislative and institutional frameworks to better business environments and to promote investments, developing modern customs systems, attaining good manufacturing practices.

6 CONCLUDING REMARKS

6.1. Undeniably, Jordan faces unprecedented challenges with a virulent turmoil in two neighbouring countries, the interruption of traditional trading routes, uncertain worldwide economic prospects and massive inflow of refugees. Jordan relies heavily on the benefits of the multilateral trading system and urges a fast and comprehensive outcome of the Doha Development Agenda. Only openness to trade and reforms will allow Jordan and the world to improve.

6.2. The Jordan Vision 2025, the core framework for economic and social development, will lead the path for Jordan to overcome the regional adversities. The vision will underline that sound fiscal policy, political and economic stability, social inclusion and gender equality, enhanced legal and regulatory framework and institutional reforms will enable Jordan to progress.

6.3. However, such achievements couldn't be possible without technical assistance and capacity building, for the country, the government and private sector. In the past year, several programs, projects and interventions have taken place by various donors and addressed the development of the trade and industry in Jordan.

6.4. Jordan highlights the need of continued assistance, especially investment in infrastructure and capacity building of all stakeholders will be huge. The Jordan Vision 2025 will contain several initiatives and measures and offer a well-balanced platform to integrate and coordinate technical assistance.